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ONLY 30,000 ANTELOPE
SURVIVE IN NORTH AMERICA

Difficult as such an undertaking may seem, a careful census has been taken of the pronghorned antelope in North America, and the areas now occupied by these big-game animals approximately determined. The pronghorn is the only species of antelope native to America. Through the occupation of its territory by man it has been extirpated from many of its former haunts but has survived in scattered small herds over a very large proportion of its original range in 16 of the Western States of this country and in Canada and Mexico. In 1922 it became evident that the time had arrived for taking active measures leading to the conservation of the dwindling numbers of the antelope if its extermination were to be averted, and accordingly a census was conducted during the following two years by field men of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, with the cooperation of conservation societies, State agencies, and individuals not only in this country but also in Canada and Mexico. The results of this census constitute the larger part of a report just published by the department on the "Status of the Pronghorned Antelope, 1922-1924," by Dr. Edward W. Nelson, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, as Department Bulletin No. 1346.

According to the results reported by Doctor Nelson there are now approximately 30,000 pronghorn existing in North America in a total of 286 scattered bands. These numbers seem sadly meager in comparison with the millions once inhabiting this continent. It has been estimated that the buffalo herds of this

country at one time numbered from thirty to sixty million animals, and in view of the greater territory occupied by the pronghorn, it may be considered a conservative estimate to place its probable original numbers at not less than thirty to forty millions, and probably more.

A factor favorably influencing the conservation of the pronghorn is the attitude of such leading conservation organizations as the Boone and Crockett Club, the Permanent Wild-Life Protection Fund, the American Bison Society, and the California Associated Societies for the Conservation of Wild Life, all of which are interested in the future of the antelope. This factor together with the establishment of refuges and the execution of restocking experiments will play an important part in the conservation of the antelope.

Copies of the antelope bulletin may be obtained upon application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.